

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 26-28 and 83 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Sindhu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,725), and rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sindhu et al. in view of Sandquist (U.S. Patent No. 5,506,841). The Examiner objected to claims 30-41 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner allowed claims 1-25 and 42-72.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 26 and 83 to improve form. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter, but respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Claims 1-72 and 83 are pending.

In paragraph I of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 26-28 and 83 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Sindhu et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 26 and 83 have been amended to include features similar to features recited in claim 1, which has been allowed by the Examiner. Therefore, claims 26 and 83 should be in condition for allowance for reasons similar to the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claims 26 and 83 are not anticipated by Sindhu et al. Claims 27 and 28 depend from claim 26 and are, therefore, not anticipated by Sindhu et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 26.

In paragraph II of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sindhu et al. in view of Sandquist. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 29 depends from claim 26. Without acquiescing in the Examiner's rejection of claim 29, Applicants submit that the disclosure of Sandquist does not cure the deficiencies in the disclosure of Sindhu et al. with regard to claim 26. Therefore, claim 29 is patentable over Sindhu et al. and Sandquist, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 26.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of pending claims 1-72 and 83.

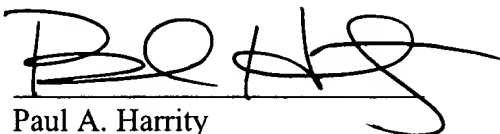
If the Examiner does not believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of this application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 35 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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